

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 23. (Cancel)

24. (currently amended): An apparatus for the ~~transport~~ transport, in a conveying direction, of blanks, namely printing carriers or coupons (11, 12), which ~~can be~~ are fed as an insert to a pack (10) in ~~the~~ a region of a packaging machine, characterized by the following features:

- a) arranged at a rear side of the packaging machine is a coupon subassembly (14) which produces double-coupons (15) in succession and ~~which can be severed in the middle by~~ comprises a severing element for the purpose of producing that severs the double-coupons in the middle thereof and produces two individual coupons (11, 12) lying adjacent to one another,
- b) following the coupon subassembly ~~(14), (14)~~ in the conveying direction, a coupon conveyor (17) receiving the individual coupons (11, 12) ~~can be fed in pairs to a coupon conveyor (17) for and~~ transporting the individual coupons (11, 12) in the region of the packaging machine,
- c) ~~the first transporters of the coupons~~ the coupon conveyor (17) ~~are comprises~~ receiving belts (23, 24) assigned to each of the two adjacent coupons (11, 12),
- d) means for driving the receiving belts (23, 24) ~~driven~~ at different conveying speeds such that the two ~~associated~~ adjacent coupons (11, 12) become spaced apart from one another in the conveying direction during transport,

e) offset deflecting rollers which turn the receiving belts (23, 24) ~~are turned in the~~ conveying direction ~~by the offset arrangement of deflecting rollers (25, 26)~~ such that the individual coupons (11, 12) are turned through 90° from their an original position during transport,

f) following the receiving belts ~~(23, 24)~~ the coupons ~~(11, 12)~~ ~~can be merged by (23, 24),~~ an intermediate conveyor (27) which merges the individual coupons to a common conveying plane such that the coupons (11, 12) ~~can be~~ are transported in succession in a common conveying plane,

g) following the intermediate conveyor ~~(27)~~ (27), the coupons ~~(11, 12)~~ ~~can be~~ deflected by a deflecting conveyor (32) which deflects the individual coupons by ~~(approximately)~~ approximately 90° with respect to the conveying direction,

h) following the deflecting conveyor ~~(32)~~ the coupons ~~(11, 12)~~ ~~can be pivoted by~~ (32), a turning conveyor (36) which pivots the coupons (11, 12) back into the a plane corresponding to their original position,

i) following the turning conveyor ~~(36)~~ the coupons ~~(11, 12)~~ ~~can be fed to (36),~~ a coupon magazine (22) which receives the individual coupons, or transferred to a coupon feeder (20, 21) ~~for the immediate transfer of which immediately transfers~~ the coupons (11, 12) to a pack (10).

25. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 24, characterized in that each receiving belt (23, 24) comprises two individual belts which interact with one another, with each belt transporting coupons (11, 12) between mutually facing conveying strands and with deflecting rollers at a discharge end of the receiving belts (23, 24) being offset in terms of their

rotating axes by 90° with respect to deflecting rollers (25) in the region of an admission end of the receiving belts (23, 24).

26. (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 24, characterized in that the intermediate conveyor (27) comprises guide members converging in the conveying direction, namely lateral belts (29) and inner belts (30), each associated with a respective receiving belt (23 resp. 24), which form conveying planes for the coupons (11, 12) converging in the conveying direction such that, following the intermediate conveyor (27), the coupons (11, 12) ~~can be~~ are transported in a common plane by a connection conveyor (28).

27. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 24, characterized in that the deflecting roller (32) for altering the conveying direction of the coupons (11, 12) by 90° comprises an inner conveyor (33) and an outer conveyor (34), which by being deflected around an inner deflecting roller form two conveying sections arranged at an angle of 90° to each other.

28. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 24, characterized by the following features:

- a) the feeder(s) directly following the coupon conveyor (17) comprise(s) a feeder belt (52),
- b) the feeder belt (52) is guided around deflecting rollers and angled a number of times to form a top receiving leg (58), a transversely directed intermediate leg (59) and a transfer leg (60) which is yet again directed transversely,
- c) the transfer leg (60) of the feeder belt (52) is directed at an acute angle in the conveying direction of the packs (10) above a conveying path (19) for the packs (10).

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29. (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 28, characterized in that the coupons (11, 12) abut a feeder belt (52) and are held in abutment thereto by a fixed guide (61) which follows the contour of the feeder (21), ~~it being possible to transport the coupons (11, 12) being transported~~ by carry-along elements (53) in a precise position relative to the packs (10) to be fed.

30. (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 24, characterized in that pressure-exerting elements for stabilizing foldings in the coupons (11, 12) are arranged in the transport path of the coupons (11, 12), namely pressure discs (67, 68) at either side of belt conveyors, ~~for example~~ in the region of deflection wheels (69, 70) of a transfer conveyor (54) of the coupons (11, 12) to a feeder (21).

31. (currently amended): An apparatus for the transport of blanks, namely printing carriers or coupons (11, 12), which ~~can be~~ are fed as an insert to a pack (10) in the region of a packaging machine, characterized by the following features:

a) arranged at a rear side of the packaging machine is a coupon subassembly (14) which produces double-coupons (15) in succession which ~~can be~~ are severed in the middle by a severing element for the purpose of producing two individual coupons (11, 12) lying adjacent to one another,

b) following the coupon subassembly (14), ~~the coupons (11, 12) can be fed in pairs to a coupon conveyor (17) for transporting~~ in a conveying direction the coupons (11, 12) in pairs in the region of the packaging machine,

c) ~~the first transporters of the coupons~~ coupon conveyor (17) are comprises receiving belts (23, 24) assigned to each of the two adjacent coupons (11, 12),

d) an arrangement of offset deflecting rollers (25, 26) for turning the receiving belts (23, 24) are turned in the conveying direction by the offset arrangement of deflecting rollers (25, 26) such that the coupons (11, 12) are turned through 90° from their original position during transport,

e) in the region of deflecting conveyors (32) (32), following the receiving belts (23, 24) (23, 24), for deflecting the coupons (11, 12) can be deflected by (approximately) approximately 90° with respect to the conveying direction,

f) following the deflecting conveyor (32) (32), the coupons (11, 12) can be pivoted by a turning conveyor (36) for pivoting the coupons (11, 12) back into the a plane corresponding to their original position, and

g) following the turning conveyor (36) (36), each of the coupons (11, 12) can be fed to a coupon feeder (20, 21) for the immediate transfer of immediately transferring the coupons (11, 12) to one pack (10) each.

32. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 31, characterized in that each receiving belt (23, 24) comprises two individual belts which interact with one another, with each belt transporting coupons (11, 12) between mutually facing conveying strands and with deflecting rollers at a discharge end of the receiving belts (23, 24) being offset in terms of their rotating axes by 90° with respect to deflecting rollers (25) in the region of an admission end of the receiving belts (23, 24).

33. (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 31, characterized in that the intermediate conveyor (27) comprises guide members converging in the conveying direction, namely lateral belts (29) and inner belts (30), each associated with a respective receiving belt (23

resp. 24), which form conveying planes for the coupons (11, 12) converging in the conveying direction such that, following the intermediate conveyor (27), the coupons (11, 12) ~~can be~~ are transported in a common plane by a connection conveyor (28).

34. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 31, characterized in that the deflecting roller (32) for altering the conveying direction of the coupons (11, 12) by 90° comprises an inner conveyor (33) and an outer conveyor (34), which by being deflected around an inner deflecting roller form two conveying sections arranged at an angle of 90° to each other.

35. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 31, characterized by the following features:

a) the coupon magazine (22) arranged at the end of the coupon conveyor (17) has two laterally offset shafts (42, 43) spaced at a distance from one another for each coupon stack (44),

b) arranged between the two shafts (42, 43) is a coupon distributor (45) directly following the coupon conveyor (17),

c) the coupon distributor (45) transports the coupons (11, 12) in one shaft or the other (42, 43) depending on the degree to which said shafts (42, 43) are filled.

36. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 35, characterized in that the coupon distributor (45) comprises two conveying rollers (46, 47) which are arranged one above the other and supply the coupons (11, 12) to one shaft (42, 43) or the other by the corresponding rotary movement of the conveying rollers (46, 47), the coupons (11, 12) being fixed by suction air to the circumference of the conveying rollers (46, 47) via bore holes (49).

37. (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 31, characterized by the following features:

- a) ~~the feeder(s) a feeder~~ directly following the coupon conveyor (17) ~~comprise(s)~~ comprises a feeder belt (52),
- b) the feeder belt (52) is guided around deflecting rollers and angled a number of times to form a top receiving leg (58), a transversely directed intermediate leg (59) and a transfer leg (60) which is yet again directed transversely,
- c) the transfer leg (60) of the feeder belt (52) is directed at an acute angle in the conveying direction of the packs (10) above a conveying path (19) for the packs (10).

38. (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 37, characterized in that the coupons (11, 12) abut a feeder belt (52) and are held in abutment thereto by a fixed guide (61) which follows the contour of the feeder (21), ~~it being possible to transport the coupons (11, 12)~~ being transported by carry-along elements (53) in a precise position relative to the packs (10) to be fed.

39. (currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 31, characterized in that pressure-exerting elements for stabilizing foldings in the coupons (11, 12) are arranged in the transport path of the coupons (11, 12), namely pressure discs (67, 68) at either side of belt conveyors, ~~for example~~ in the region of deflection wheels (69, 70) of a transfer conveyor (54) of the coupons (11, 12) to a feeder (21).